

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cholesterol-lowering agent containing, as an active ingredient, at least one yeast belonging to *Issatchenkia*, ~~*Hanseniaspora*~~, ~~*Kloeckera*~~, *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis*, ~~*Pichia*~~, or ~~*Torulaspora*~~.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A cholesterol-lowering agent containing, as an active ingredient, at least one yeast selected from among ~~*Issatchenkia orientalis*~~, ~~*Hanseniaspora uvarum*~~, ~~*Kloeckera africana*~~, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Pichia farinosa*, and ~~*Torulaspora delbrueckii*~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A Foods and or drinks for reducing cholesterol containing a yeast as recited in claim 1 or 2.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor containing a yeast as an active ingredient.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to claim 4, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to claim 4, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*,

Hanseniaspora uvarum, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*,
Saccharomyces exiguus, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia*
burtonii, *Candida kefyr*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida*
maltosa, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*,
Pichia anomala, *Pichia holstii*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): A food and/or drink for inhibiting secondary bile acid
production containing a yeast as recited in any one of claims 4 to 6.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): ~~Use, in~~ A method for the production of a
cholesterol-lowering agent, comprising:

admixing of at least one yeast belonging to *Candida*, *Issatchenkia*, *Hanseniaspora*,
Kloeckera, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Pichia*, or *Torulaspora* with a pharmaceutically
acceptable vehicle or carrier.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): ~~Use, in~~ A method for the production of a
cholesterol-lowering agent, comprising:

admixing of at least one yeast selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*,
Hanseniaspora uvarum, *Kloeckera africana*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces*
lactis, *Pichia farinosa*, and *Torulaspora delbrueckii* with a pharmaceutically acceptable
vehicle or carrier.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): ~~Use of~~ A method for ~~a yeast as recited~~
~~in claim 1 or 2 in~~ the production of a food and drink for reducing cholesterol comprising
incorporating *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* into a food or drink.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): ~~Use of a yeast in~~ A method for the production of a secondary bile acid ~~production~~ production inhibitor comprising admixing a yeast with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle or carrier.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): ~~Use according to~~ The method of claim 11, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): ~~Use of a yeast in the production of a secondary bile acid production inhibitor according to~~ The method of claim 11, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*, *Saccharomyces exiguus*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia burtonii*, *Candida kefir*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, *Pachiticospora transverensis*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): ~~Use, in~~ A method for the production of a food or drink for inhibiting secondary bile acid production, comprising incorporating of a yeast as recited in any one of claims 11 to 13 into a food or drink.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A treatment method for reducing cholesterol, comprising administration to a subject in need thereof of at least one yeast belonging to *Issatchenkia*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Kloeckera*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Pichia*, or *Torulaspora*.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A treatment method for reducing cholesterol, comprising administration of ~~at least one yeast selected from among~~ *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Kloeckera africana*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Pichia farinosa*, and *Torulaspora delbrueckii*.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A treatment method for inhibiting secondary bile acid production, comprising administration of a yeast.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 17, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Hanseniaspora*, *Saccharomyces*, *Hyphopichia*, *Candida*, *Torulaspora*, *Pichia*, and *Zygosaccharomyces*.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 17, wherein the yeast is at least one species selected from among *Issatchenkia orientalis*, *Kluyveromyces marxianus*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Kluyveromyces thermotolerans*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces dairensis*, *Saccharomyces exiguus*, *Saccharomyces unisporus*, *Saccharomyces bayanus*, *Hyphopichia burtonii*, *Candida kefir*, *Candida etchellsii*, *Candida zeylanoides*, *Candida solani*, *Candida maltosa*, *Candida tropicalis*, *Candida cylindracea*, *Candida utilis*, *Torulaspora delbrueckii*, *Pichia anomala*, *Pichia holstii*, *Pachiticospora transverensis*, and *Zygosaccharomyces rouxii*.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A food or drink comprising ~~at least one yeast~~
~~belonging to~~ *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis*.

Claim 21 (New) A food or drink comprising an amount of *Kluyveromyces marxianus*
or *Kluyveromyces lactis* sufficient to reduce cholesterol in a subject ingesting said food or
drink.

Claim 22 (New) The food or drink of claim 21, which comprises *Kluyveromyces*
marxianus.

Claim 23 (New) The food or drink of claim 21, which comprises *Kluyveromyces*
lactis.

Claim 24 (New) The food or drink of claim 21, wherein said *Kluyveromyces*
marxianus or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are live cells.

Claim 25 (New) The food or drink of claim 21, wherein said *Kluyveromyces*
marxianus or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are heated cells.

Claim 26 (New) The food or drink of claim 21, wherein said *Kluyveromyces*
marxianus or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are in the form of a lyophilized product.

Claim 27 (New) The food or drink of claim 21, wherein said *Kluyveromyces*
marxianus or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are in the form of a milled product.

Claim 28 (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said yeast is *Kluyveromyces lactis*.

Claim 29 (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are live cells.

Claim 30 (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are heated cells.

Claim 31 (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are in the form of a lyophilized product.

Claim 32 (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said *Kluyveromyces marxianus* or *Kluyveromyces lactis* are in the form of a milled product.